

# **SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 18, 2004**  
**2:00 PM**  
**433 Blatt Bldg.**

**Members Present:** Mr. Bob Staton, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Bob Daniel, Senator Mike Fair, Senator Robert Giese, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Mr. George Martin, Representative Joseph Neal, Mrs. Molly Spearman for Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Mrs. Judy Williams, and Mr. Larry Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**  
The minutes of the February 19, 2004, meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments**

Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined and asked EOC approval for the following changes to the ratings criteria:

**For high schools**

- Beginning with the 2004 report card, HSAP is to be used in the measure of tenth grade passage of the exit exam with the values and impact shown on materials distributed in the meeting packet;
- For the 2004 report card, the absolute rating penalty for not testing 95 percent of students is suspended;
- For the 2004 report card, improvement ratings are to be calculated with comparisons of HSAP field test data to HSAP performance data;
- Consistent with statutes and provisos, effective with the 2005 report card the LIFE scholarship criterion is to be replaced with end-of-course test performance;
- (moved from long-range issues in the packet to action) Summer graduation is to be included in graduation rate;
- (moved from long-range issues in the packet to action) Transfers to adult education who fail to earn high school diplomas within 4 years (inclusive of summer school) after entering grade 9 are to be counted as non-graduates in the calculation of graduation rate for SC accountability purposes.

**Long-range issues**

- The EOC is to ask the General Assembly to provide for the permanent inclusion of graduation rates in both the high school and district ratings;

- The EOC staff is to conduct exploratory studies to determine the four-year and five-year graduation rates.

For primary (K-2) schools

- Delete teacher certification as a criterion in the rating of primary schools;
- Collect environmental data to be used in the rating of primary schools once every five years; however, schools which have made changes will have the opportunity to be re-evaluated upon their request;
- Initiate the use of environmental data in the ratings with the 2005 report card; schools may elect to use their data from the pilot (2004) year data in the subsequent rating;

The EOC adopted the recommendations.

Mr. Staton interrupted the agenda to hear Remarks from a Key Constituency. He introduced Mrs. Cindy Capers-Small and her students from CC Blaney Elementary School in Charleston. Senator Pinckney addressed the EOC, the students and other guests. He congratulated the school on its accomplishments and presented the school with a joint resolution. Representative Brown participated in the presentation.

Mrs. Marlowe introduced Mrs. Capers-Small. Mrs. Capers-Small outlined the school program and performance. The students recited their school pledge. Members asked a number of questions about the strategies used in the school. She was asked what she would change to increase achievement. She responded that the school, however successful, needs to increase parental involvement (i.e., relationships between parents and teachers and with students).

Mr. Staton returned to the agenda.

III. Subcommittee Reports (cont.)

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He informed the EOC of the schedule for program evaluations conducted by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is to focus on evaluations of the following programs: Gifted and Talented, External Review Teams, Homework Centers, School Improvement Council Assistance and Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement.

Mr. Daniel reviewed education funding for Fiscal Year 2005 as approved by the House of Representatives.

C. Parental Involvement

Mrs. Marlowe asked Mr. Martin to report on a Joint Parental Involvement/Public Awareness Project. Mr. Martin outlined the three-year initiative to promote adult advocacy for students reading on grade level. The EOC approved the initiative.

D. Public Awareness

Mr. Martin commented on the conclusion of the county-wide meetings and revisions to the masthead and design of EOC publications.

E. Administration

There was no report.

The EOC adjourned at 3:25 p.m.